

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A cannula assembly for use in a surgical procedure, which comprises:

a housing;

a cannula member defining a longitudinal axis, the cannula member defining a longitudinal opening therethrough for passage of a surgical instrument;

a sealing member having proximal and distal faces disposed within the housing, the sealing member extending across the longitudinal axis of the cannula member and having a predetermined shape prior to insertion of the instrument, the sealing member comprising a fabric, the sealing member having an hourglass shape defining an open aperture in an initial condition thereof for the receipt of the surgical instrument and arranged so that insertion of the instrument causes the aperture of the sealing member to expand to an expanded condition thereof and resiliently contact the outer surface of the instrument to form a substantial seal therewith; and

~~a ring assembly positioned within the housing, the ring assembly including a first ring member and a second ring member positioned about the sealing member such that the sealing member is at least partially positioned between the first ring member and the second ring member, the first ring member being configured and dimensioned for engagement with the second ring member to inhibit relative movement therebetween~~

a seal clamp configured and dimensioned to secure an outer periphery of the sealing member within the housing.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the fabric of the sealing member comprises an elastic material and is arranged to expand upon engaging the instrument.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the sealing member includes a resilient material.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 7 wherein the fabric is compressed into the resilient material.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 8 wherein the resilient material is disposed within interstices defined by the fabric such that the resilient material is at least partially formed with the fabric in an integral manner.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5 wherein the sealing member includes a coating to reduce friction between the seal member and the at least one surgical instrument.

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5 further comprising a zero seal in the housing configured and dimensioned to substantially inhibit escape of insufflation gases absent the instrument.

Claims 14-16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 11, wherein the coating comprises a hydrocyclosiloxane membrane prepared by a plasma polymerization process.

Claims 18-19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 5, wherein the sealing member is non inflatable.

Claims 21-31 (canceled).

Claim 32 (new): The assembly of claim 5, wherein the sealing member includes a projection extending inwardly into the aperture defined by the hourglass shape of the sealing member, the projection being configured and dimensioned to engage the surgical instrument to enhance the seal formed therewith upon insertion.

Claim 33 (new): A cannula assembly for use in a surgical procedure, which comprises:

a housing;

a cannula member defining a longitudinal axis, the cannula member defining a longitudinal opening therethrough for passage of a surgical instrument; and

a sealing member having proximal and distal faces disposed within the housing, the sealing member extending across the longitudinal axis of the cannula member and having a predetermined shape prior to insertion of the instrument, the sealing member comprising a fabric, the sealing member having a general hourglass shaped segment and an annular segment projecting radially inwardly from the hourglass segment, the annular segment defining an open aperture in an initial condition thereof for the receipt of the surgical instrument and arranged so that insertion of the instrument causes the aperture to expand to an expanded condition thereof whereby at least the annular segment resiliently contacts the outer surface of the instrument to form a substantial seal therewith.

Claim 34 (new): The assembly of claim 33, further including a seal clamp configured and dimensioned to secure an outer periphery of the sealing member within the housing.

Claim 35 (new): The assembly of claim 33 wherein the sealing member is dimensioned such that during insertion of the instrument the aperture expands to the expanded condition whereby surfaces of the hourglass segment adjacent the annular segment resiliently also contact the outer surface of the instrument to form the substantial seal therewith.

Claim 36 (new): The assembly of claim 33 wherein the annular segment is disposed adjacent the longitudinal midpoint of the sealing member.